

LOS ANGELES TIMES

MAR 27 1964

Ex-L.A. Dealer Quizzed on Machinegun Imports

Senators Investigate Possibility That State May Be Center for Foreign Weapons

Exclusive to The Times from a Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Acting on the premise that California is a "prime center" of foreign weapons imports, a Senate subcommittee Thursday questioned Haywood (Hy) Hunter, former Los Angeles gun dealer, about machine-guns imported from Singapore.

After first declining to answer on grounds of possible self-incrimination, Hunter said that he had imported Singapore weapons, including 24 machineguns.

Without elaborating he also hinted at some mysterious connection between his firm, the American Weapons Corp., and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Subcommittee records showed that at least until Feb. 21, the corporation had offices at 8255 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood. A subsidiary of the firm is Hy Hunter Inc.

Appearing before the subcommittee investigating domestic sales of foreign-made surplus military weapons imported into the United States, Hunter said he no longer had a place of business in Los Angeles.

His business now, he said, is done in Hamburg, Germany. The subcommittee chairman, Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) accused him of having sent his records to Hamburg to keep them out of the investigators' hands.

Hunter denied this, saying that the investigators had gone through them a year ago while they were still in Los Angeles.

May Hear Rose

Carl Perlan, staff director of the subcommittee, said that later the group will probably hear George Rose, president of the Madison Import Corp., 401 E 12th St., Los Angeles, and Martin B. Retting, head of Martin B. Retting, Inc., importers, of 11029 Washington Blvd., Culver City.

At the opening of Thursday's hearing Dodd said that previous investigation by his group—the Senate subcommittee to investigate juvenile delinquency — "highlighted the need for further federal legislation to regulate the interstate traffic in firearms."

FOIAb3b

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

Gets Lower Rate

"Our investigations he said, "have documented the fact that a prime center for foreign imports is located in California."

Hunter has been accused of shipping weapons valued at \$69,000 and of importing machine guns as scrap. He told the subcommittee, however, that he had brought weapons into the country under license and labeled as scrap only to obtain a lower shipping rate.